

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING: HANDLING OF
ACTION PROPOSALS.

REF: STATE 205700

1. AT JULY 18 COUNCIL MEETING DEPSEC GEN ELDIN POINTED OUT
THAT NOVEMBER MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS WILL
CONSIDER A NUMBER OF ACTION PROPOSALS IN THE FORM OF COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS. ELDIN OBSERVED THAT TO TAKE EFFECT AS
ACTS OF THE ORGANIZATION THESE PROPOSALS WILL EITHER HAVE
TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE COUNCIL AT SOME POINT OR THE
COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO DELEGATE TO MINISTERS THE POWER TO ACT
ON ITS BEHALF. ELDIN INDICATED THAT THE SEC GEN WOULD PUT
FORWARD THIS MONTH SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING A
DELEGATION OF POWERS. REFTEL ASKED FOR MISSION VIEWS ON
THESE SUGGESTIONS.

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2. FOR MISSION'S INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY
THINKING ON THIS MATTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

--WE BELIEVE A PROPERLY CIRCUMSCRIBED DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY
LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEM 6 -- THE ACTION PROPOSALS --
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN THIS CASE. (COUNCIL SHOULD REVIEW
AND NOTE THE ACTION PROPOSALS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.)

--PRECEDENT INVOLVED IS POSITIVE IN TWO IMPORTANT RESPECTS.
A DELEGATION OF POWERS, HOWEVER LIMITED, WOULD BE USEFUL
AS A RECENT PRECEDENT WHEN THE COUNCIL IS ASKED TO GRANT
AUTHORITY TO THE PROPOSED NEW IEP AGENCY. AT THE SAME TIME,
SO FAR AS OTHER OECD COMMITTEES ARE CONCERNED, THE CIRCUMSCRIBED
NATURE OF THE DELEGATION OF POWERS -- COVERING A SPECIFIC
AGENDA ITEM FOR A SPECIFIC MEETING -- IS IN FACT A USEFUL
ASSERTION OF COUNCIL GOVERNANCE OVER THE SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES.

3. TACTICALLY, WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE THE SECGEN'S
SHOW; HE SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ARGUING THE CASE. AT
MISSION'S DISCRETION, IF A CONSENSUS ON A LIMITED DELEGATION
OF POWERS EMERGES WHEN THIS ISSUE IS RAISED, YOU MAY AGREE
AD REFERENDUM. KISSINGER

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